

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
MINE SAFETY REVIEW COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION NO. **04 -MSRC- 014**

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY,
OFFICE OF MINE SAFETY AND LICENSING

COMPLAINANT

vs. **FINAL ORDER REGARDING CLAUDIUS LEON DOTSON**

CLAUDIUS LEON DOTSON

RESPONDENT

This matter having come before the Commission on the Joint Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement between the Complainant, Office of Mine Safety and Licensing (OMSL) and Respondent Claudius Leon Dotson, and the members of the Commission having reviewed the Settlement Agreement filed on March 23, 2005 in the matter herein, and the Commissioners being sufficiently advised,

IT IS HEREBY **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The Joint Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement is **GRANTED**;
2. The **Settlement Agreement** signed by the parties and filed with the Commission is hereby **incorporated by reference** as if reproduced herein in full as a material part of this **FINAL ORDER**. A copy is attached hereto;
3. This Final Order only resolves the matters referenced herein, and any new enforcement action or subsequent penalties imposed during any probationary period are in addition to and not in lieu of those that may be sought by OMSL for the acts or omissions during that probationary period. This Final Order in no way prohibits OMSL from investigating or

filing legal action based upon other activities or omissions by the Respondent not arising from the factual basis of the original violation and resolved herein.

4. This Final Order shall be considered to constitute a “first offense” as that term is defined in 805 KAR 8:010, Section 1(5). Future allegations of separate offenses by Respondent, resulting in an adjudication of guilt by the Commission, shall be deemed “subsequent offenses” as defined by 805 KAR 8:010, Section 1(13);
5. This Final Order represents a final disposition of all issues between the Complainant and the Respondent, in these matters. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Final Order may result in further action by the Commission; and
6. Appellate rights: Pursuant to KRS 351.194(8) and KRS 13B.140(1), an appeal of an order of the Commission must be filed in the Franklin Circuit Court within thirty (30) days of the entry of this Final Order. The petition shall include the names and addresses of all parties of record in this proceeding and shall include a statement of the grounds upon which review is requested. A copy of this Final Order shall accompany the petition. Copies of the petition must be served upon the Commission and all parties of record in this proceeding.

Entered this the 14TH day of April 2005.


MINE SAFETY REVIEW COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing FINAL ORDER was served by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail, postage pre-paid to the following this 15TH day of April 2005:

CLAUDIUS LEON DOTSON
8828 BIG BRANCH ROAD,
VIRGIE, KY 41572
Respondent

By regular mail to:

HON. WES ADDINGTON
APPALACHIAN CITIZENS LAW CTR. INC.,
207 W. COURT STREET
SUITE 202
PRESTONSBURG, KY 41653-7725

And by messenger mail to:

HON. TONY OPPEGARD
GENERAL COUNSEL
OFFICE OF MINE SAFETY & LICENSING
1025 CAPITAL CENTER DRIVE
FRANKFORT KY 40601

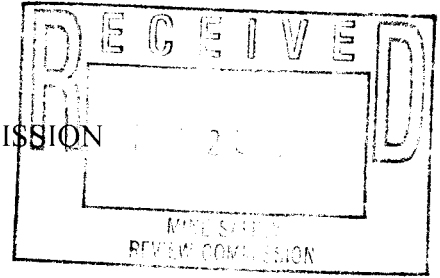
And the original shall be kept on file:

Mine Safety Review Commission
132 Brighton Park Blvd.
Frankfort Ky 40601



Bryon Alan Thompson
General Counsel
Mine Safety Review Commission

KENTUCKY MINE SAFETY REVIEW COMMISSION



KY. OFFICE OF MINE SAFETY & LICENSING)

Complainant)

v.) Administrative Action No. 04-MSRC-014

CLAUDIUS LEON DOTSON)

Respondent)

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Come the Complainant, the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety & Licensing (“OMSL”), and the Respondent, Claudius Leon Dotson (“Dotson”), and hereby state that they have agreed to a settlement of the above-styled disciplinary proceeding, according to the following terms:

In consideration for the final resolution of this action against him and the cancellation of the hearing scheduled for April 14, 2005,¹ Dotson hereby agrees to the following:

1. The **PROBATION OF HIS ELECTRICAL CERTIFICATE (# PE-028-03) AND THE PROBATION OF HIS UNDERGROUND MINER’S CERTIFICATE (#)**, **EACH FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS**, effective upon the signing of this Settlement Agreement by both parties.

2. During this 18-month probationary period, Dotson shall comply with all state and federal mine safety laws and regulations. The willful violation by Dotson of any of said laws or

¹ OMSL and Dotson are filing a joint motion with the Mine Safety Review Commission (“the Commission”) to approve the Settlement Agreement and dismiss this action.

regulations may result in OMSL filing a motion with the Mine Safety Review Commission to revoke his electrical certificate and/or his underground miner's certificate for the remainder of the 18-month probationary period. If the circumstances warranted, OMSL would also retain the right to file a separate action with the Commission seeking other penalties against Dotson for his actions.²

3. This Settlement Agreement and any final order issued herein by the Mine Safety Review Commission will be considered by the Commission to constitute a "first offense", as that term is defined at 805 KAR 8:010, Section 1 (5).³ Any future adjudication against Dotson by the Commission - regarding a separate alleged offense - will be deemed a "subsequent offense" as defined at 805 KAR 8:010, Section 1 (13).

Dotson understands and agrees that he has had the opportunity to retain an attorney to represent him in this matter, but that he has chosen to represent himself. Dotson further states that he has carefully read this Settlement Agreement, that he has carefully considered the Agreement prior to signing it, and that he understands and agrees to its terms and provisions.

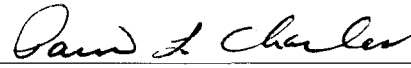
OMSL and Dotson acknowledge and agree that there are no other promises, inducements, representations, or agreements in connection with this Settlement Agreement other than those expressly set forth in writing herein.

² In either event, Dotson would have the right to a hearing before the Commission on the allegations against him.

³ However, Dotson specifically denies the allegations set forth in paragraph 10 of OMSL's Complaint and denies that he violated any Kentucky mining law or regulation. Dotson asserts that he has entered into this Settlement Agreement to avoid the time and expense of further litigation.



CLAUDIUS LEON DOTSON
8828 Big Branch Road
Virgie, Kentucky 41572



PARIS L. CHARLES
Executive Director
Ky. Office of Mine Safety & Licensing
P.O. Box 2244
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

3-15-05

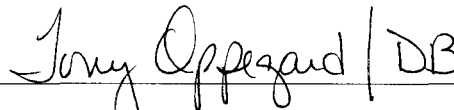
DATE

3-21-05

DATE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Settlement Agreement was mailed this 22nd day of March, 2005 to: Claudius Leon Dotson, 8828 Big Branch Road, Virgie, Kentucky 41572; and Wes Addington, Attorney-at-Law, APPALACHIAN CITIZENS LAW CENTER, 207 West Court Street, Suite # 202, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653.



TONY ORPEGARD
General Counsel

KY. OFFICE OF MINE SAFETY & LICENSING